

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:
 - responsive to detecting an incoming call received from a telecommunication service provider network, determining caller identification information associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound;
 - comparing the caller identification information associated with the incoming call with caller identification information for allowable calling parties;
 - capturing the caller identification information;
 - responsive to determining a match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling party, allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound; and
 - retransmitting the caller identification information immediately after allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1,
 - wherein the caller identification information includes calling line identification data;
 - wherein the step of determining caller identification information occurs at a customer premises location; and
 - wherein the step of allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound further comprises:
 - identifying a communications device at a customer equipment premises location within a plurality of communications devices at the customer equipment premises location to which the incoming call should be routed; and
 - passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2,
wherein the incoming call is received at the customer equipment premises location over an incoming single line; and
wherein the step of passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device further comprises: —passing ring signals associated with the incoming call to the identified communications device without passing the ring signals associated with the incoming call to another communications device within the plurality of communications devices.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
wherein the incoming call is received at a customer equipment premises location; and
wherein the method further comprises responsive to determining no match between the caller identification information associated with the incoming call and caller identification information for an allowable calling party, passing the incoming call to an answering system device at the customer equipment premises location without allowing the audible indicator of the incoming call to sound.
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising:
responsive to the identified communications device being lifted off hook after the ring signals are passed to the identified communications device, maintaining a connection of the incoming call to the identified communications device;
wherein the caller identification information includes calling line identification data;
wherein the identified communications device is a caller ID capable communications device;
wherein the step of determining the caller identification information includes receiving calling line identification data between a first pair of bursts sent by the telecommunication service provider network; and
wherein the step of retransmitting the caller identification information includes reframing the received calling line identification data and retransmitting the calling line identification data between a second pair of bursts sent by the telecommunication service provider to thereby allow

a user of the identified caller ID capable communications device to use automated incoming call screening without losing caller ID capability.

- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Cancelled)
- 8. (Cancelled)
- 9. (Cancelled)
- 10. (Cancelled)
- 11. (Cancelled)
- 12. (Cancelled)
- 13. (Cancelled)
- 14. (Cancelled)
- 15. (Cancelled)
- 16. (Cancelled)
- 17. (Cancelled)
- 18. (Cancelled)
- 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying incoming calls, comprising:
responsive to detecting an incoming call received from a telecommunication service provider network, determining the presence of caller identification information associated with the incoming call without allowing an audible indicator of the incoming call to sound;
selecting a default mode when there is not any caller identification information associated with the incoming call, the default mode selectively controlled by a user; and
handling the call in accordance with the selected default mode.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the incoming call is received at a customer premises location, and wherein the handling step comprises transmitting the call to one of a plurality of live ports.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20,

wherein the incoming call is received at a customer premises location over an incoming single line; and

wherein the handling step comprises transmitting the call to a radiofrequency handset also at the customer premises location when there is caller identification information associated with the incoming call matching caller identification information for an allowable calling party.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the handling step comprises providing a visual indication of the incoming call at a customer premises location without providing an audio indication of the incoming call, and transmitting the call to an answering system device after providing the visual indication.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the handling step further includes suppressing transmission of the ring bursts associated with the incoming call.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the incoming call is not retransmitted.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20,

wherein the caller identification information includes calling line identification data;

wherein the determining step includes receiving calling line identification data between a first pair of bursts; and

wherein the handling step includes retransmitting the calling line identification data between a second pair of bursts when there is caller identification information associated with the incoming call matching caller identification information for an allowable calling party to thereby allow a user of a caller ID capable communications device to use automated incoming call screening without losing caller ID capability. ~~default step is controlled by the user.~~

27. (Currently amended) A method of identifying incoming calls, the method comprising:
determining caller identification information associated with an incoming call received at a customer equipment premises location;
allowing an audible indicator at the customer equipment premises location to sound responsive to the caller identification information being associated with a pre-selected allowable calling party; and
passing the incoming call to an answering system at the customer equipment premises location through a selected one of a plurality of answering system device ports without allowing the audible indicator to sound responsive to the caller identification information not being associated with a preselected calling party.
28. (Previously presented) A method of Claim 27, further comprising receiving the incoming call prior to the step of determining, and retransmitting the caller identification information after allowing the audible indicator to sound.
29. (Currently amended) A method of Claim 28, further comprising visually indicating to a user of the answering system for each separate incoming call the presence of the each separate incoming call when being received ~~having been passed to the answering system.~~
30. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
responsive to detecting an incoming call received at a user premises location, determining caller identification information associated with the incoming call ~~at a user premises location~~ without allowing an audible indicator of the presence of the incoming call to sound;
identifying a communications device at the user premises location within a plurality of communication devices to which the incoming call should be routed ~~is~~ responsive to determining the permissibility of passing ~~an~~ the incoming call;
allowing the audible indicator to sound at the identified communication device; and
maintaining a connection of the incoming call to the identified communication device responsive to the identified communication device being lifted off hook after the audible indicator sounds.